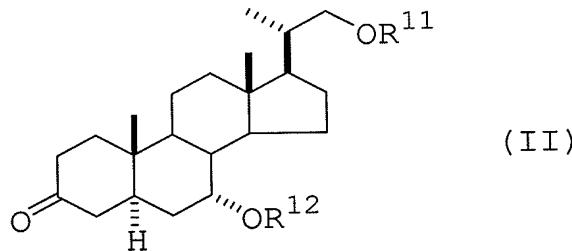


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

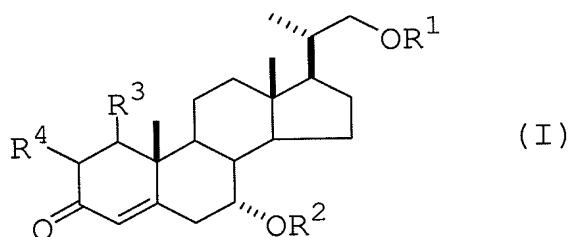
This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a 5α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (II):



wherein R^{11} and R^{12} are each independently is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, and R^{12} is a hydrogen atom,

which method comprises reacting a pregnane derivative represented by the formula (I):



wherein R^1 is a hydroxyl-protecting group, R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, and R^3 and R^4 are each a hydrogen atom or in combination form a bond,

with a metal selected from the group consisting of alkali metals and alkaline earth metals in the presence of a proton donor and an amine and/or ammonia, wherein when R^3 and R^4 are each a hydrogen atom, the metal is present in an amount of 0.7-2 times the amount necessary for reducing the carbon-carbon double bond of 1.4-4 molar equivalents relative to the compound represented by formula (I), and when R^3 and R^4 in combination form a bond, the metal is present in an amount of 2.8-8 molar equivalents relative to the compound represented by the formula (I).

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein R³ and R⁴ in combination form a bond.

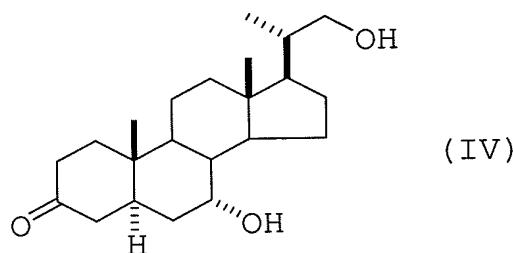
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein R¹ and R¹¹ are tri-substituted silyl groups having three, same or different, substituents selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) and an aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s).

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein R¹ and R¹¹ are tert-butyldimethylsilyl groups.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the metal is an alkali metal.

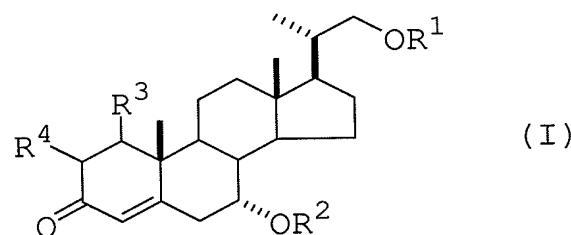
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the alkali metal is lithium.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for producing (20S)-7 α ,21-dihydroxy-20-methyl-5 α -pregn-3-one represented by the formula (IV):



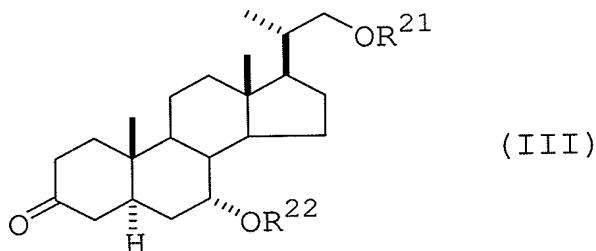
which method comprises the steps of

(a) reacting a pregnane derivative represented by the formula (I):



wherein R¹ is a hydroxyl-protecting group, R² is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group, and R³ and R⁴ are each a hydrogen atom or in combination form a bond,

with a metal selected from alkali metals and alkaline earth metals in the presence of a proton donor and an amine and/or ammonia, wherein when R³ and R⁴ are each a hydrogen atom, the metal is present in an amount of 0.7-2 times the amount necessary for reducing the carbon-carbon double bond of 1.4-4 molar equivalents relative to the compound represented by formula (I), and when R³ and R⁴ in combination form a bond, the metal is present in an amount of 2.8-8 molar equivalents relative to the compound represented by the formula (I), to give a 5 α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (III):



wherein R²¹ is a hydroxyl-protecting group and R²² is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl-protecting group; and

(b) eliminating the hydroxyl-protecting group of the 5 α -pregnane derivative represented by the formula (III) obtained by the aforementioned step.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein R³ and R⁴ in combination form a bond.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein R¹ and R²¹ are tri-substituted silyl groups having three, same or different, substituents selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkoxy group optionally having substituent(s) and an aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s).

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein R^1 and R^{21} are tert-butyldimethylsilyl groups.

13.-18. (Canceled)